

I agree with the claim that we must not let the Bell Companies dominate the telecommunications industry in this country. See my comment below about the beneficial results of the break up of AT&T. Collusion among the Bell Companies is tantamount to another monopoly. Competition requires competitors to be alive. If the FCC lifts the dominant classification from the Local Exchange Carriers (Bells), it will limit competition to a duopoly consisting of a bell and a cable company. Competition in the American Telecom marketplace will not be incentivized, it will be torpedoed. ISPs and CLECs will die, consumers will be deprived of choice and the FCC will be much to blame for the results. Please consider the following:

Chairman Powell,
Chairman Powell, please consider that 80% of all new job creation in this country comes from small business. That, despite the competitive disadvantages, which small businesses face in their struggle to find viable business models with which to compete with multi-national corporations. The interests of large corporations often do not coincide with the interests of the citizens of the United States. Whereas, the small business entrepreneur is often much closer to the social fabric of this great nation. The competitive pressure of "small" business often ensures higher quality and greater innovation on the part of large corporations, whose market position allows volume cost/price advantages. Large corporations often have a vested interest in "sitting" on new - and superior - technologies and services, by unfair litigation, buy-outs, and other anti-competitive strategies. Microsoft comes to mind.

Only a crusty few are now bemoaning the deregulation of the old phone monopoly. While the transition to competitive telecommunications has been painful at times - mostly because of regulatory and judicial mistakes, there is no doubt about the ferocious speed at which, new, superior, and less expensive data and telecommunications technologies came on line after the break-up of AT&T. By some estimates, the break-up of AT&T has generated several TRILLION dollars of new economy since 1984: that means jobs, secondary economic benefits and a larger tax base. Let's keep that regulatory philosophy intact. Free market competition, along with the enlightened observance and legal enforcement of contracts - while it may produce uneven results in the short term - is, in the long run, the most efficient economic engine ever devised in human history. Let's keep it that in America.

Chairman Powell: